Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Homemakers' Chat Wednesday, August 30, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

SUBJECT: "TIPS FOR FOOD-SHOPPERS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. and the Consumer's Counsel, A.A.A.

--oOo--

More tips today for the housewife who buys the family food. Direct from the Department of Agriculture comes more news to keep you informed on prices and supplies of seasonal foods. This news is to help you plan menus and take advantages of foods when they are cheap and plentiful.

This summer's dry weather is showing results in the supplies of vegetables going to market. The weather cut down vegetable crops so supplies in the market are smaller than they were last year at this time. You'll find on the market considerably smaller amounts of snap beans, cauliflower, cucumbers and eggplant. And beets, carrots, green peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and spinach aren't so plentiful as they were last year.

On the other hand, some vegetables and fruits are more plentiful. Among these are lima beans, celery, onions, sweet corn, cantaloups and watermelon. If you are feeding your family on a slim pocketbook, these are the fresh foods to make the most of. Because they are plentiful right now, you should be able to buy them at reasonable prices.

As for the vegetables grown for canning this year, crops were much smaller. But because so many canned vegetables were left over from last year, supplies on the whole will be about the same. Though there won't be quite so many cans of corn, snap beans and peas as there were last year, there will be considerably more than usual. Not quite so many canned tomatoes will be on the market this year either.

Potato plants had their troubles during July. The result is not quite so many potatoes selling this winter. In fact, supplies are expected to be below average. Shipments from the late crop of potatoes have already started to market. More potatoes will be coming on the market steadily from now on through October.

Do you like onion soup, and creamed onions, and all the other well-known onion dishes? Then, you should be happy this fall. The late onion crop is going to be big--larger than average. This late onion crop is harvested in October or November. Part of the crop goes into storage for marketing during the winter. To prepare for the time when the crop comes in and onions are cheap and plentiful, better collect some good onion recipes.

That's all the news about vegetables right now. Let's see about the fruits on the market. Though fruit crop prospects declined with the dry weather in July, the total production of fruits this year is still considerably larger than last year. All signs point to a big apple crop--probably 25 percent more apples than last year. Not quite so many pears and grapes as we had from the big crops of 1938 but many more than average. September is the month when pears are most plentiful on the market. Apple and grapes go to market in largest amounts in October.

The squirrels should be happy this fall. No squirrel families need go on relief this winter. For there are going to be lots of nuts. The big news is: Plentiful supplies of all nuts this year! There will probably be about 60 percent more filberts than last year, 33 percent more almonds, 25 percent more pecans, and 20 percent more walnuts.

If you don't already own a copy of the Department of Agriculture's leaflet of recipes and directions for using nuts, now is a good time to order a copy. Then you'll be ready to make the most of the big nut crop when it comes to market. The name of this leaflet is "Nuts and Ways to Use Them." Order it from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. It's free.

As for dairy products, poultry and eggs, there's not much change in the outlook. Lots of milk, butter and cheese still going to market. Not so many dairy products as last year, to be sure, but more than in other recent years.

As for poultry and eggs, there are more on the market this year than last. More poultry will be coming on the market from now through December. December is the month when the most poultry is selling and prices should be accordingly.

You've already had the news that pork is going to be plentiful this fall when last spring's little pigs start coming to market during the next 3 or 4 months. As a matter of fact, already a good deal more pork is on the market than last year at this time.

And that reminds me of 2 other cooking leaflets you'll want to have on hand this fall. You'll want a copy of "Cooking Cured Pork" and a copy of "Pork in Preferred Ways," if you are to make the most of both cured and fresh pork this year. Both these leaflets are free from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Once more: "Cooking Cured Pork" Leaflet No. 81, and "Pork in Preferred Ways" Leaflet No. 45. Send a postcard to the Department of Agriculture for one or both of these leaflets.

That's all the shopping news for today.

# # # #